



Violet's Porch

The Newsletter of the Jefferson Township Public Library

February/March 2014

From the Director's Desk: The Rights of the Reader

Note: This essay is based on the book *Rights of the Reader* by French author Daniel Pennac. In it he declares that readers have ten rights. This is my commentary on the first right of the reader — **The right not to read.**

I understand compulsory reading is a necessity in education. This is not a bad thing. However, convincing students to read for achievement rarely results in their enjoying what they are reading.

In college I spent my summers working in a grocery store. Being able to read for enjoyment helped me get through the endless boredom of stocking shelves and pushing carts. Often I would spend my breaks reading. When my friends saw me reading, most of them assumed I was reading for school. Then when they learned I was reading because I enjoyed it, they would get confused. Many times I heard "Why are you reading that?" or "Why are you reading that if you don't have to?"

It's very hard to appreciate reading when, throughout most of our educational experience, we are forced to read. This is the crux of the first right of the reader. **Being forced to read is not enjoying reading!**

To fully appreciate the joy of reading, we have to want to read. **This is the challenge – to let people know that reading freely is one of life's most rewarding activities.** And, implicitly, this is the life's mission of a librarian – to induce in others a life-long love of reading.

FREE Tax Return Help

AARP Tax-Aide volunteers will again be at the library on Wednesdays, from February 5 to April 9, 2014, to help you prepare your tax returns.

AARP Tax-Aide volunteers are trained to answer most of the tax questions faced by low and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those aged 60+. Since 1968, this volunteer-based program has helped nearly 50 million people in every state and the District of Columbia. Here in Jefferson, approximately 150 people had their taxes prepared by Tax-Aide volunteers last year.

To schedule an appointment between 9:30 AM and 1 PM, please call the library.



"Learning is not
attained by chance,
it must be sought
for with ardor and
attended to with
diligence."

—Abigail Adams



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FIND YOUR NEXT GREAT BOOK AT THE LIBRARY!

Computer Classes @ the Library

~ Free one-hour classes,
registration required ~

Fridays, 9:30-10:30 AM

February 7—Google Docs
February 14—Google Docs
February 21—Google Apps
February 28—NO class
March 7—Windows 8.1
March 14—Windows 8.1
March 21—Windows 8.1
March 28—NO class

Mondays, 7:30 to 8:30 PM

February 10—NO class
February 17—Google Docs
February 24—Google Docs
March 3—Google Apps
March 10—NO class
March 17—Windows 8.1
March 24—Windows 8.1
March 31—Windows 8.1

Winter Story Times

Monday

10 AM—Lapsit (Ages 2 1/2 and under)
10:45 AM—Story Time for 3's
11:30—Alphabet Stories, Part 11 (Ages 4+)

Tuesday

9:30 AM—Lapsit (Ages 2 1/2 and under)
10:15 AM—Stories for Ages 3-5
11:30 AM—Drop In Craft
1:15 PM—Stories for Ages 3-5

Thursday

4 PM—Story time for Ages 2 1/2 and up
6 PM—Pajama Story Time



*All programs run for 30 minutes.
Please register at www.jeffersonlibrary.net*

Coming Up...

One-of-a-Kind Valentines

—Tuesday, February 4 at 7 PM

Materials will be on hand for you to make two unique cards, one for your special someone, and one for a recovering American soldier (the library will mail these to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center.)

African Masks and Sculpture

—Tuesday, February 11 at 7 PM

These marvelously carved objects served ritualistic purposes and were considered to be magically powerful. Discover the importance and religious aspect of African masks such as the Baluba, Kifwebe and Senufo masks, as they were believed to be the representation of the body and spirit.

Savor and Share

—Wednesday, February 19 at 6 PM

Do you love cookbooks and trying new recipes? Would you enjoy meeting new friends and sharing treats and culinary ideas? Bring a (small) favorite dish and recipe to share, and enjoy a display of library cookbooks for browsing and inspiration.

Moonlight Serenade: A Live Concert

—Sunday, March 2 at 3 PM

The Moonlight Duo features cello and piano, and their mission is to bring audiences closer to classical music. Enjoy chamber music pieces and learn about the composers, history and culture surrounding the music.

—Two programs for Women's History Month —

Service: When Women Come Marching Home

—Wednesday, March 19 at 7 PM

Women make up 15% of today's military. This film (2012, 55 minutes, unrated) highlights the resourcefulness of seven amazing women representing the first wave of mothers, daughters and sisters returning home from the frontless wars of Iraq and Afghanistan.

Women Make Music

—Sunday, March 30 at 2 PM

Acoustic songstress Heather Mulvey sings songs by women composers such as Judi Collins, Joni Mitchell, Dolly Parton, Carol King, Cheryl Wheeler, Nanci Griffith and others.

March is Women's History Month



March 19, 7 PM



March 2, 3 PM



March 30, 2 PM

Jefferson Township Public Library

1031 Weldon Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438
Phone: 973-208-6244
www.jeffersonlibrary.net

Library Director

Seth Stephens
seth.stephens@jeffersonlibrary.net

Newsletter Editor

Christine O'Brien
chris.obrien@jeffersonlibrary.net

Hours

Monday-Friday 9:30-9
Saturday 9:30-6
Sunday 1-5

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The Year in Numbers: 2013

- 11,555** People who visited the library in JULY
- 65** People who got their library card in SEPTEMBER
- 319** Items added to the library's collection in FEBRUARY
- 11,614** Items that people borrowed in AUGUST
- 1,185** DVDs borrowed in MARCH
- 124** Adults who attended library programs in APRIL
- 338.5** Hours the library was open in OCTOBER
- 208** Magazines that people borrowed in JUNE
- 9** Community groups that used the Riker Room in MAY
- 1,462** Books borrowed from other libraries in JANUARY
- 3,186** People who visited the library web site in NOVEMBER
- 653** Books lent to other libraries in DECEMBER

Community Corner

Little House in the Valley

by Carol Keppel

The Jefferson Township Historical Society has long enjoyed its collaboration with our fine Township library. Even our very beginnings are linked. The Riker library in the Milton section first greeted the public at large in the very building that is now our museum. Over the years, both our displays and the historic records we maintain often require in-depth research to ensure authenticity. The library staff have been reliable, enthusiastic partners in our many activities.

We are currently gathering information about the author Laura Ingalls Wilder and her "Little House" books about pioneer life in the Northern Woods and the Great Plains in the last quarter of the 1800's. Our own "Little House," now the Museum, housed the Chamberlain children, who grew up at the very same time. Though they lived in valleys and along waterways, they too played in fields, attended school, and helped with family chores, much the same as the Ingalls children did.

Currently the library is hosting the display "Laura Ingalls Wilder in the Kitchen." Stop in and take a look at the implements used to churn, grind, measure, and mix at the turn of the century!

The Jefferson Township Museum reopens on March 2. Come see our new **The Little House in the Valley** displays. You will be delighted to explore the parallels between the two families, and learn even more about home and community life long ago. Many thanks to the Library for making this possible.

